

Abstract

The invention relates to a method and an apparatus for battery state identification. The battery state is determined by measurement of the voltage of a motor vehicle battery during the starting process over a predetermined time period, determination of a minimum voltage level of the motor vehicle battery during the predetermined time period of the measurement process, assessment of the state of charge of the vehicle battery on the basis of the minimum voltage level, and control of the generator as a function of the assessment of the state of charge of the motor vehicle battery, thus ensuring an adequate supply to the vehicle power supply system and adequate charging of the vehicle battery, while at the same time optimizing the fuel consumption and the emissions. The generator is driven as a function of the determined state of charge and, optionally, the ambient temperature, by predetermining either a nominal value of the charging voltage at the normal charging level, a nominal value of the charging voltage for engine load reduction, a nominal value of the charging voltage at a reduced vehicle power supply system level, or a nominal value of the charging voltage at the recuperation level.